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24 March, 1998

All Registered Lift Contractors & Registered Lift Engineers

Dear Sirs,

Circular No. 6/98
Fatal Incident Involving a Lift

A 22-year old female has been found in death at the pit of a lift in an industrial building. The lift was a general freight lift with manual-operated collapsible landing shutters and manual-operated folding car gate. At the conclusion of the death inquest of the case held on 9.3.1998, the Coroner returned a verdict of "Open Verdict" and added riders which read as follows:-

1. In manually operated lifts, the car door switch should be the positive separation type to minimise the risk of a short circuit resulting from component failure.
2. Operators of such lifts should replace car door switches with those of the positive separation type.
3. The emergency unlocking devices of all landing doors should be properly protected to avoid any attempt to open the landing doors with improper tools by unauthorized person.
4. The unlocking zone and re-levelling zone of the lift should be limited to within 200mm above and below a landing.
5. The horizontal distance between the lift shaft wall (facing the lift car entrance) and the sill or entrance frame of the lift car should not exceed 150mm.

I should be grateful if you would take action to ensure the lifts under your maintenance/examination are in compliance with the above-riders.

Yours faithfully,

(G.M.W. CHUI)
for Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

WLC/GMWC/tp